

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

REC'D 25 JAN 2006

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(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference F-683	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/US04/41943	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 15 December 2004 (15.12.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 15 December 2003 (15.12.2003)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): G06F 11/30, 12/14; H04L 9/00, 9/32 and US Cl.: 713/200			
Applicant PITNEY BOWES INC.			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. (*sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau*) a total of ___ sheets, as follows:

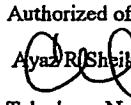
sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. (*sent to the International Bureau only*) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) ___ , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer  Ayaz R. Sheikh Telephone No. 703-305-0900

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International application No.

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on:

the international application in the language in which it was filed.

a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
- international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages 1-30 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages 31-33 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages 1-8 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____
 pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, Nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, Nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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International application No.
PCT/US04/41943**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-7</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-7</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-7</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and Explanations (Rule 70.7)
Please See Continuation Sheet

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

V. 2 Citations and Explanations:

Claim 1 - 7 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Pintsov (Patent Number: 6125357).

As per claim 1, Pintsov teaches a method for verifying a digital postage mark, the method comprising the steps of: scanning a mail item to obtain a digital image of the mail item, the mail item including a digital postage mark and a destination address block (Pintsov, Column 4 Line 18 - 24 and Column 5 Line 1); parsing the digital image to obtain a digital postage mark area and a destination address block area (Pintsov, Column 4 Line 63 - Column 5 Line 22); extracting a first portion of the destination address block from the destination address block area (Pintsov, Column 4 Line 63 - Column 5 Line 22); generating a first address block image digest using the first portion of the destination address block (Pintsov, Column 4 Line 63 - Column 5 Line 22); retrieving a second address block image digest from the digital postage mark area; comparing the first address block image digest to the second address block image digest (Pintsov, Column 4 Line 6 - 17); and accepting the mail item when the comparison of the first address block image digest to the second address block image digest is within a predetermined threshold (Pintsov, Column 8 Line 27 - 29).

As per claim 2, Pintsov teaches rejecting the mail item when the comparison of the first address block image digest to the second address block image digest is beyond a predetermined threshold (Pintsov, Column 8 Line 41 - 43).

As per claim 3, Pintsov teaches the second address block image digest is in a cryptographic validation code in the digital postage mark area (Pintsov, Column 8 Line 41 - 43).

As per claim 4 and 5, Pintsov teaches a method for generating a mail item, the method comprising the steps of: generating an address block image digest using a first portion of a destination address block of the mail item (Pintsov, Column 4 Line 16 - 19); using the address block image digest as a recoverable portion of a cryptographic validation code (Pintsov, Column 4 Line 66 - Column 5 Line 10);

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Supplemental Box

formatting the recoverable portion of a cryptographic validation code with other postal data for digital postage mark information computation (Pintsov, Column 5 Line 1 - 6); and
printing the digital postage mark information on one of the mail item, label or tag (Pintsov, Column 5 Line 1 - 6).

As per claim 6, Pintsov teaches scanning the mailpiece to obtain a digital image of the mailpiece, the mailpiece including the digital postage mark and a destination address block (Pintsov, Column 8 Line 28);
retrieving a representative portion of a destination address block image in its original form from the digital signature (Pintsov, Column 5 Line 29);

comparing the representative portion of the destination address block image with the second digital data obtained from the scanned destination address block (Pintsov, Column 4 Line 6 - 17);

accepting the mailpiece when the comparison of the representative portion of the destination address block image with the second digital data is within a predetermined threshold (Pintsov, Column 8 Line 27 - 29).

As per claim 7, Pintsov teaches rejecting the mailpiece when the comparison of the representative portion of the destination address block image with the second digital data is beyond a predetermined threshold (Pintsov, Column 8 Line 27 - 29).